

14th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
July 3, 2011

“For although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to little ones.”

Thank you Jesus...I actually have a chance!

Understanding “these things”...AKA: God’s revelations, don’t necessarily require a high I.Q. – God bless you though if you have one and especially are using for God and spreading the Gospel.

Rather, understanding God’s revelations require the mind and heart of a child. So, this means that Fr. Dave is actually complimenting me when we calls me childish...right?

Well, not exactly.

What Jesus is saying here is that those who pride themselves on thinking they know every last detail about the Faith will never experience God’s gracious and loving revelations.

Those who think they have it all figured out...couldn’t be farther from the Truth.

Rather, our Lord asks us to be child-like...like little ones...not childish as I said.

In other words, we are called to be gracious when presented with a gift...to be respectful towards those in authority...to be accepting of things that are out of our control and we cannot change...to be innocent, genuine, and pure.

In being so, our Lord tells us that we will receive God’s revelations.

And what exactly are God’s revelations?

Well, there are many, but I wish to speak about 2 today...2 revelations that describe the dignity of life.

The first is this: that all life – from the womb to the tomb – is sacred and needs to be respected, cherished, and nourished as a gracious gift freely given to us by God, our Creator.

This belief is illustrated by our forefathers at the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which established our nation’s birthday:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

In other words, the Truth that is the right to life is self-evident...it is known to be true by understanding its meaning without proof being needed or required. Our forefathers witnessed this 235 years ago in signing their names...and in doing so, they were simply practicing what the Christian Faith professes, namely, that all life is created by God, given to us to be nurtured, and calls for our respect and protection as much as we are able to do this.

May we keep this in mind and in heart as we celebrate our nation's independence this weekend.

This is one revelation.

The 2nd is similar and that is that life, which is burdensome and labored...and what life isn't...is called to seek rest in the Lord.

Let's face it; life is difficult and challenging at times.

This side of heaven is not always easy...but no one said it ever would be.

So, for those of us faced with pain, struggles, and feelings like we're carrying the weight of the world on our shoulders, Jesus has this to say:

“Come to me...and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.”

In other words, we are called to exchange our hardships for Christ's hardships, hardships that he has already transformed for us by his death and resurrection into an easy load that results in us somehow receiving rest.

How awesome is that?!

Personally, I think we got the better part of the deal.

Furthermore, we are called to learn from Jesus...specifically, learn to be “meek and humble of heart.”

Learn to be steadfast in the face of adversity and persecution.

Learn to be faithful and true to God no matter what difficult or challenging situations come before us as followers of Christ.

Learn to be lowly and self-emptying for others so that they may receive fulfillment and peace.

We are called to learn to be more Christ-like.

And in doing so, our hardships surprisingly become lighter and we discover peace and rest in our own hearts.

May we desire to go to the Lord so as to find rest.

My brothers and sisters, let us strive more and more to be child-like every day so that we may be graced with understanding all that our Lord wishes to reveal to us.